

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265)
WELFARE FUND,)
SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265)
PENSION FUND,)
SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265)
EDUCATIONAL FUND,)
SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265)
INDUSTRY FUND,) Case No. 08 C 4494
SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265)
SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT PLAN,)
SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265)
SAVINGS FUND,)
SCOTT P. WILLE, as Administrative Manager/)
Authorized Agent of Plaintiff Funds, and,)
SHEET METAL WORKERS')
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION,)
LOCAL UNION NO. 265,)
Plaintiffs,)
vs.)
AMERICAN CHUTE SYSTEMS, INC.,)
an Illinois corporation,)
Defendant.)

ANSWER

Defendant, American Chute Systems, Inc., by its attorneys, Burr E. Anderson, and
pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, answers the complaint as follows:

COUNT I

1. This action arises under the laws of the United States and is brought pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§1132, 1145 (hereinafter referred to as "ERISA"). Jurisdiction is based upon the existence of questions arising thereunder, as hereinafter more fully appears.

ANSWER: Admits.

2. Plaintiffs SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265 WELFARE FUND, SHEET METALWORKERS LOCAL 265 PENSION FUND, SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265 EDUCATIONAL FUND, SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265 INDUSTRY FUND, SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265 SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT PLAN, and SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 265 SAVINGS FUND, are various welfare, pension and related joint, labor-management funds and bring this action as "employee welfare benefit funds," and "plans," under ERISA, and Plaintiff SCOTT P. WILLE is the Administrative Manager and/or authorized agent of Plaintiff Funds and a fiduciary with respect thereto. Plaintiff Funds are administered within this District.

ANSWER: Admits.

3. Defendant is a party to a collective bargaining agreement with Sheet Metal Workers' Local 265.

ANSWER: Admits.

4. Defendant is obligated to make fringe benefit contributions to the Funds, under the terms of the certain "Agreements and Declarations of Trust," establishing and outlining the administration of these Funds, and pursuant to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement adopting these "Agreements and Declarations of Trust" and entered into by Defendant and Sheet Metal Workers Local 265, which represents a bargaining unit, the members of which are beneficiaries of those Funds.

ANSWER: Admits.

5. As an employer obligated to make fringe benefit contributions to the Funds, Defendant is specifically required to do the following:

- (a) To submit to Plaintiffs for each month, by the 20th day of the month following the month for which the report is made, a report stating the names, social security numbers, and total hours worked in such month by each and every person on whose behalf contributions are required to be made by Defendant to Plaintiffs; or, if no such persons are employed for a given month, to submit a report so stating;
- (b) To accompany the aforesaid reports with payment of contributions based upon an hourly rate as stated in the applicable agreements;
- (c) To make all of its payroll books and records available to Plaintiffs for the purpose of auditing same, to determine whether Defendant is making full payment as required under the applicable agreements;
- (d) To compensate Plaintiffs for the additional administrative costs and burdens imposed by Defendant's failure to pay, or untimely payment of, contributions by way of the payment of liquidated damages in the amount of 10 percent of any and all contributions which are not timely received by Plaintiffs for a particular month, as specified fully in Paragraph 4(a) above, together with the interest as provided in ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1132(g);
- (e) To pay any and all costs incurred by Plaintiffs in auditing Defendant's payroll records should it be determined that Defendant was delinquent in the reporting or submission of all contributions required of it to be made to Plaintiffs;
- (f) To pay Plaintiffs' reasonable attorneys' fees and costs necessarily incurred in the prosecution of any action to require Defendant to submit its payroll books and records for audit or to recover delinquent contributions;
- (g) To furnish to Plaintiffs a bond with good and sufficient surety thereon, in an amount acceptable to Plaintiffs, to cover future contributions due the Plaintiffs.

ANSWER: Admits.

6. Defendant is delinquent and has breached its obligations to Plaintiffs and its obligations under the Plans in the following respect:

Defendant has failed and refused to submit all of its reports to Plaintiffs due to date and/or has failed to make payment of all contributions acknowledged by Defendant thereon to be due Plaintiffs. Defendant is, therefore, subject to liquidated damages, as authorized by the Trust Agreements. Plaintiffs have assessed liquidated damages against the Defendant, as authorized by the Trust Agreements, but Defendant has failed and refused to make payment of said liquidated damages.

ANSWER: Denies.

7. That upon careful review of all records maintained by them, and after application of any and all partial payments made by Defendant, the total amount due is unknown, based upon Defendant's failure to submit all required reports or to accurately state all hours for which contributions are due on reports previously submitted, and subject further to the possibility that additional contributions and liquidated damages will come due during the pendency of this lawsuit.

ANSWER: Denies.

8. Plaintiffs have requested that Defendant perform its obligations as aforesaid, but Defendant has failed and refused to so perform.

ANSWER: Denies.

9. Defendant's continuing refusal and failure to perform its obligations to Plaintiffs is causing and will continue to cause irreparable injuries to Plaintiffs for which Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

ANSWER: Denies.

WHEREFORE, defendant American Chute Systems, Inc. prays that Count I of the

Complaint be dismissed.

COUNT II

1. This action arises under the laws of the United States and is brought pursuant to the terms of the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §185. Jurisdiction is based on the existence of questions arising thereunder as hereinafter more fully appears. The rights asserted herein arise from the same series of transactions as Count I and there are common questions of law and facts to both Counts.

ANSWER: Admits.

2. Plaintiff Union is a labor organization representing certain of Defendant's employees as the duly authorized collective bargaining representative, and is party to a certain collective bargaining agreement to which Defendant, AMERICAN CHUTE SYSTEMS, INC., an Illinois corporation, is also a party and to which said Defendant has agreed to be bound.

ANSWER: Admits.

3. Under the aforesaid collective bargaining agreement, Defendant has agreed to deduct from the wages of those of its employees represented by Plaintiff Union in collective bargaining and who execute proper written authorization, sums of money as and for union dues, which monies are to be remitted to Plaintiff Union on a monthly basis along with Defendant's regular fringe benefit reports and contributions as described in Count I of this Complaint.

ANSWER: Admits.

4. Defendant has deducted or has been required to deduct dues from the wages of its employees as required by the collective bargaining agreement, but has failed and refused to remit any part of such monies so deducted to Plaintiff Union, but has instead converted such monies to its own use.

ANSWER: Denies.

5. The total amount of money that Plaintiff Union knows Defendant to have failed to remit in violation of the collective bargaining agreement is unknown at this time due to Defendant's failure to submit all required monthly fringe benefit contribution reports.

ANSWER: Denies.

6. The Defendant's acts and omissions as described herein constitute a breach of the collective bargaining agreement and entitle Plaintiff Union to recover from Defendant all monies which Defendant was required to remit to Plaintiff Union whether deducted from wages or not and whether traceable or untraceable commingled with Defendant's assets, and further entitle Plaintiff Union to recover from Defendant its damages for breach of Defendant's obligations.

ANSWER: Denies.

WHEREFORE, defendant American Chute Systems, Inc. prays that Count II of the Complaint be dismissed.

AMERICAN CHUTE SYSTEMS, INC.

By: 
One of its attorneys

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